

**Q:** Why should I worry about ground water and surface water quality?

**A:** By protecting our surface water, we help protect our drinking water. Moreover, the City is required by law to ensure that our stormwater is of a certain quality.

- ◆ The Redmond Water Utility relies on shallow aquifers beneath the City for a large percentage of the City's drinking water supplies. Stormwater systems help protect these aquifers.
- ◆ State and federal law requires that stormwater be safe for human contact and be able to provide habitat for fish, birds, native plants, and other wildlife.



A stormwater bioswale helps filter out impurities like oil and heavy metals. It's also an excellent way to settle out fine sediment resulting from erosion.

**Q:** How often will I need to have my system cleaned?

**A:** Stormwater systems in the City of Redmond are to be inspected approximately every two years. When your system is inspected the City of Redmond staff will issue either:

- ◆ Maintenance requirements for cleaning structures or repairs.
- ◆ Mail you a letter letting you know that your system is in compliance.

**Q:** What will the City of Redmond staff be looking for?

**A:** The City of Redmond Water Quality Inspectors will be inspecting the entire stormwater system and primarily be looking for:

- ◆ Sediment accumulations.
- ◆ Pollution.
- ◆ To verify that systems are functioning properly.

**Q:** What information will the City need from me in order to perform the inspections?

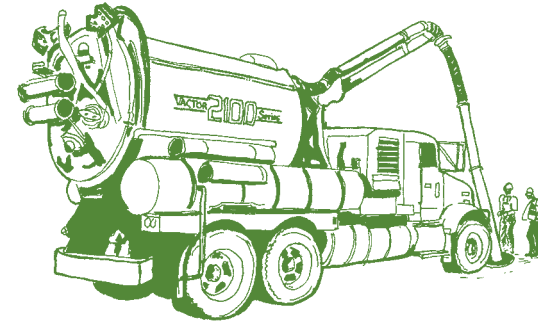
**A:** The City of Redmond will request that you or the homeowners association that you are affiliated with provide:

- ◆ Current property owner information if it has changed within the last six months.
- ◆ A contact person, address, and phone number.
- ◆ The contact person should be the Association President, Property Manager, or Owner/s who represents all affected properties.
- ◆ The City of Redmond will meet with all owners but would like a single contact person for coordinating inspections and re-inspections and all other communications.

**Q:** How much will maintaining my stormwater system cost?

**A:** The cost to clean systems is often calculated differently by each contractor, and can vary depending on the degree of maintenance required.

- ◆ The City recommends that you get at least three bids.
- ◆ It is in your best interest to look at bids carefully.

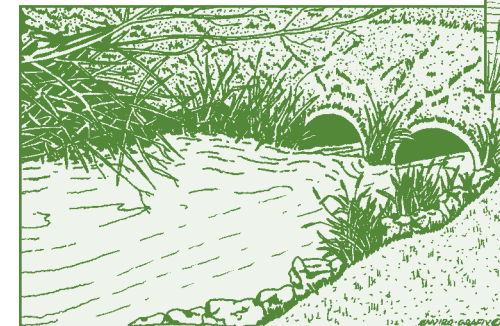


Typically, vactor trucks are used to clean stormwater systems. Vactor trucks use both a high pressure water rinse and high pressure suction vacuum for cleaning purposes.

**Q:** Are there contractors whom I can call that do this type of work? Can I clean my system myself?

**A:** The Stormwater Maintenance Ordinance requires the use of a licensed vactor contractor to perform the waste removal from the structures.

- ◆ You will receive a list of known contractors in the information packet mailed to you if your site requires maintenance.
- ◆ The City of Redmond cannot make any recommendations as to which contractor to use for maintenance services.



Infiltration systems allow stormwater to soak back into the ground helping to recharge groundwater aquifers.

**Q:** How long do I have to complete the maintenance requirements?

**A:** Typically you will have 30 calendar days after the city notifies you to complete maintenance requirements.

**Q:** Are there any penalties for not complying with maintenance requirements?

**A:** The goal of this inspection and maintenance program is for the City and private stormwater system owners to work together to achieve the standards set forth by State and Federal regulations.

In the event that the required maintenance is not completed the Stormwater System Maintenance Ordinance allows for private storm drain system owner to be fined and/or be brought before the City of Redmond Hearing Examiner.



Manmade detention and retention ponds are excellent methods for slowing down run-off from storms, settling out fine sediments and reducing erosion.

**Q: What is the City of Redmond's Stormwater System Maintenance Ordinance?**

**A:** The City of Redmond Stormwater System Maintenance Ordinance requires that the city inspect public and private storm drain systems to ensure that they receive maintenance and function properly.

- ◆ This ordinance puts the City in compliance with State and Federal requirements to protect and enhance ground and surface water quality.
- ◆ These inspections may also help prevent the added costs that come from flooding, and erosion.

**Q: What does this ordinance mean to me?**

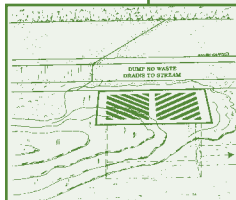
**A:** The ordinance requires private storm system owners to open their systems up to inspection by the City and to maintain or repair these systems.

- ◆ The City of Redmond will establish inspection and maintenance dates for properties with private stormwater systems.
- ◆ The City will then help property owners familiarize themselves with their systems and explain what needs to take place in order to maintain them.

**Q: What is a stormwater system?**

**A:** A stormwater system can consist of roof drains, underground pipes, catch basins, manholes, swales, culverts, ditches and man made ponds.

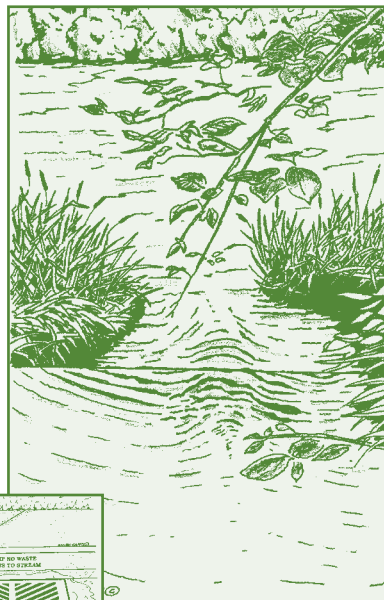
Catch basins keep deposits of sediment and other debris acquired when collecting and conveying stormwater runoff.



**Q: Why do storm drains need to be maintained and don't storm systems lead to the sewers?**

**A:** In Redmond, all stormwater systems drain to a creek, river, lake, or infiltrate (soak) back into the ground. Over time small pieces of silt, leaves and trash can collect in storm drain systems keeping them from functioning properly.

- ◆ Problems with individual stormwater systems can create problems for the greater community by reducing the quality of our surface water and groundwater.
- ◆ In most cases, maintenance will mean removing silt, tree roots, and trash.
- ◆ Some cases might require more extensive maintenance and repair to insure the systems function as designed.



Many stormwater systems discharge directly into Lake Sammamish or the Sammamish River or other natural water.

**Q: Along with maintaining your stormwater collection system, are there other ways in which you, as a homeowner, can protect the quality of Redmond's surface water?**

- A:**
- ◆ **Garden naturally.** Reduce your use of pesticides and herbicides. For more information on natural lawn and garden care contact Natural Resources at (425) 556-2845.
  - ◆ **Plant a tree.** Because a tree offers so many benefits to the environment, it is easy to forget that they also reduce surface water runoff by intercepting rain before it hits the ground.
  - ◆ **Wash your car in an appropriate place.** Wash your car at a car wash where the water is collected and sent to sanitary sewer, or else drive your car on to your lawn and use a bio-degradable soap. This allows the lawn to act as a natural filter removing pollution.
  - ◆ **Clean up after your pet.** Use a plastic bag or shovel to collect your pet's waste and dispose of it in the garbage.
  - ◆ **Never dump waste down a storm drain.** Dispose of antifreeze, oil, paint, and other chemicals properly. For information on proper disposal contact the King Waste Mobile at (206) 296-4692.

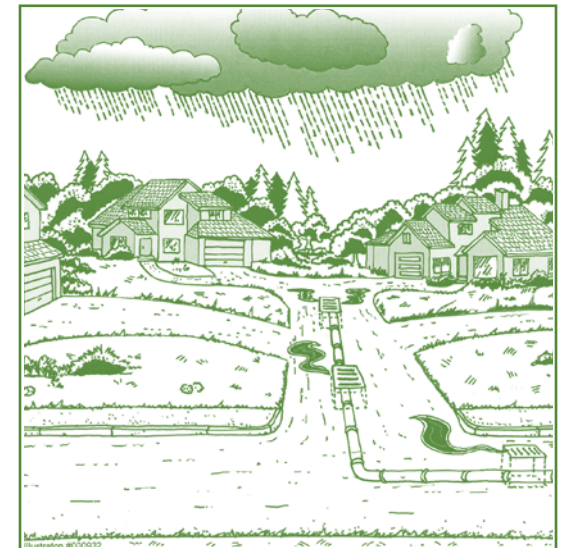
**Q: Where can I get further information or guidance?**

**A:** Contact the City of Redmond environmental hotline at **425-556-2868** or write to:

City of Redmond  
Natural Resources Division  
Water Quality Compliance, MS:2NPW  
PO Box 97010  
Redmond, WA. 98073-9710

**E-mail:** [nr@redmond.gov](mailto:nr@redmond.gov)

## Maintaining Your Private Residential Stormwater System



### Common Questions and Answers

Regarding The City of Redmond Stormwater Maintenance Ordinance

